

2.      (Twice Amended) A soil compaction device according to claim 1, wherein the light detector at the guide handle does not contain a light-emitting element.

3.      (Twice Amended) A soil compaction device according to claim 1, wherein the light detector is a photodiode, a phototransistor or a light-sensitive resistor (LDR light-dependent resistor).

4.      (Twice Amended) A soil compaction device according to claim 1, wherein a number of light detectors are provided at the guide handle at a minimum of two places in the grip areas of both hands.

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:


Please add page 7 as the Abstract of the Disclosure.

REMARKS

This application has been amended to insert headings in the specification, to eliminate multiple dependencies in the claims and to otherwise place the claims into better conformance with preferred USPTO practice without narrowing the claims, to incorporate Article 34 Amendments from the corresponding PCT application, and to add an Abstract. Entry of the amendments and early consideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

No fees are believed to be payable with the submission of this amendment. However, the Director is authorized to charge any fees associated with this or any other communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1170.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Amended Claims

Patent claims

I claim:

1. (Twice Amended) A soil compaction device with a guide handle (1) provided with at least one light detector (2) in the area gripped by the hand, said light detector emitting a signal corresponding to the brightness (brightness signal), wherein the light detector (2) is coupled to an evaluation circuit (3) that can evaluate the brightness signal in such a way that when a prescribed brightness threshold is exceeded or is not met, a control signal is sent to a control unit (4) of the soil compaction device, and wherein the brightness threshold can be variably adjusted by the evaluation circuit (3) according to the surrounding conditions by means of a surrounding light detector (5) that is coupled to the evaluation circuit (3) and is provided outside the grip area of the hand to determine the surrounding conditions.

2. (Twice Amended) A soil compaction device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the light detector (2) at the guide handle (1) does not contain a light-emitting element.

3. (Twice Amended) A soil compaction device according to claim 1 or 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the light detector (2) is a photodiode, a phototransistor or a light-sensitive resistor (LDR light-dependent resistor).

4. (Twice Amended) A soil compaction device according to ~~one of claims 1 through 3,~~  
~~characterized in that~~wherein a number of light detectors ~~(2)~~ are provided at the guide handle ~~(1)~~  
at a minimum of two places in the grip areas of both hands.

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